

GRYLLUS MIGRATORIUS.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Caput inflexum, maxillosum, palpis instructum.

Antennæ setaceæ, seu filiformes.

Alæ quatuor, deflexæ, convolutæ: inferiores plicatæ.

Pedes postici saltatorii. *Ungues* ubique bini.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 693.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

GRYLLUS thōrace subcarinato: segmento unico, capite obtuso, maxillis atris.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 700.

GRYLLUS thōrace subcarinato: segmento unico, mandibulis cæruleis.

Fabr. Spec. Inf. tom. 1. p. 365.

Præter omnia insecta quæ fruges devorando hominum miseras augere solent, Grylli, sive Locustæ ut communiter dicuntur, maxime metuendam stragem nobis inferunt. In calidioribus terræ partibus, Africæ præcipue et Orientis regionibus, edacissimorum horum animalium innumeræ exurgunt catervæ, quæ supra fidem omnia devastant; tractus per quos volitant, fere desolant, et spatio brevi amœnissimas et fertilissimas provincias in deserta convertunt; dum densissimo eorum

rum agmine ipse dies adimitur. Dubitari pene possit, sintne locustæ nocentiores vivæ an mortuæ; e mortuarum enim millibus tanta exoritur putredo, ut incipientis pestis una e causis valentissimis censeatur. Locustarum plurimæ sunt species, quarum quæ maxime fortasse vorax et exitiosa est ea in tabula depicta, quæ Gryllus Migratorius LINNÆI. Plerumque coloris est subfufci, sed maculis obscurioribus variati; et in quibusdam corporis partibus coloris est rubentis, seu potius carnei; crura autem plerumque sunt subcærulea. Anno millesimo septingentesimo quadragesimo octavo, in varias Europæ partes irrupit hæc species, sed in catervis sparsis et diffractis. In Germaniam, Galliam, et Angliam involabant, et in urbe ipsa Londini ejusque vicinio plurimæ reperiiebantur hujusmodi locustæ: brevi tamen spatio perire, vix ulla agris illata injuria. Maxima omnium specierum hæctenus cognitarum est Gryllus cristatus LINNÆI, qui insectum jam descriptum mole quincuplici vel etiam sextupla superat; quique cum aliis majoribus hujus generis, in nonnullis Orientis regionibus pro cibo usurpari solitus est. Non tantum recentes, sed et fale conditæ comeduntur hæc locustæ, et in foro publico venales prostant in oppidis Levantinis. Substantia tamen earum pergracilis est, præcipue insectorum marium; nam foeminæ ob ovarium paulo pleniorum escam suppeditant. Notissimum est multum disputasse theologos de loco in scriptis evangelicis, ubi dicitur JOANNEM BAPTISTAM locustis et melle sylvestri vitam sustinuisse, quorum nonnulli per verbum *αγκίδας*, teneras tantum plautarum summitates intelligi voluerunt. Cum tamen probe com-

pertum

pertum sit, Arabas hisce animalibus vel nunc pro cibo uti, vix egere videtur illa vox ulla alia interpretatione præter comunem et vulgarem. Cur enim miremur sanctum illum et abstemium prophetam, cum ab inani- bus mundi gaudiis se procul subduceret, cibo usum fuisse non sane inter dapes lautiores numerando, sed illo tantum qui in locum potioris escæ suffectus sit? Ut hanc conjecturam firmemus, testimonium Domini HASSELOQUIST liceat nobis proferre, qui de hac ipsa re ita loquitur. “ Qui insectis virum hunc sanctum vesci solitum fuisse negant, aiunt cibum e locustis paratum ignotum prorsus esse et inusitatum. Si vero hi in Ægyptum, Arabiam, aut Syriam migrarent, longe aliter de hac re sentirent: certis enim temporibus locustas affatas communiter comedunt Arabes, nec dubitandum est illis tempore quo vixit JOANNES BAPTISTA, pro cibo fuisse. Præterea his locis mores antiqui non facile dilabuntur, nec BAPTISTÆ cibus mirus aut insolitus jam reputatur. Presbyter etiam Græcus, nequaquam indoctus, mihi pro vero affirmavit ecclesiam suam per verbum *ακρίδας* locustas semper intellexisse; risitque ipse cum a me audiret nostros interpretes plantam aut avem illo verbo significari conjecisse. ”





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THE
MIGRATORY,
OR,
WANDERING LOCUST.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Head inflected, armed with jaws, and furnished with palpi or feelers.

Antennæ either setaceous, or filiform.

Wings four, deflected, convolute; the inferior ones plaited.

Hind-Foot formed for leaping. *Claws* on all the feet double.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

GRYLLUS with subcarinated thorax with a single segment, obtuse head, and blackish or blueish jaws.

Of all the insects which are capable of adding to the calamities of mankind by devouring the products of the earth, locusts seem to possess the most formidable powers of destruction. Legions of these voracious creatures are from time to time produced in various parts of Africa and the Eastern World, where the havoc they commit is almost incredible. They carry desolation with

with them wherever they pass, and in the short space of a few hours change the most fertile provinces into the appearance of a barren desert ; while the air is darkened by their numbers. Nay even when dead they are still terrible, since the putrefaction which arises from their inconceivable number, is such that it has been regarded as one of the principal causes of a beginning pestilence. There are a great many different species of locusts. One of the most destructive is the *Gryllus Migratorius* of LINNÆUS, or the Wandering Locust, here represented. It is generally of a brownish color, varied with spots of a deeper cast, and in some parts with pale red or flesh-color, and the legs are commonly blueish. In the year 1748 this species appeared in irregular flights in several parts of Europe ; as in Germany, France, and England, and in London in particular, and its neighbourhood, great numbers were seen : they perished however in a short time, and were not productive of any mischief. The largest species of locust yet known is the *Gryllus Cristatus* of LINNÆUS, which is five or six times as large as the species just described ; and which, together with some other of the larger kind, is made use of in some parts of the world as an article of food. They are eaten both fresh and salted, in which last state they are publicly sold in the markets in some parts of the Levant. The quantity of edible substance which they afford is but small, especially in the male insects ; but the females, on account of the ovaries, afford a more nutritious sustenance. It is well known that different interpretations have sometimes been given of the passage
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In the sacred writings in which JOHN THE BAPTIST is said to have fed on locusts and wild honey ; and the word *αγκιδας* has been supposed to mean the young shoots of vegetables, rather than locusts ; but since the fact is well established, that these insects are still eaten by the inhabitants of the East, there seems not the least reason for admitting any other interpretation than the usually received one : Why should we wonder that the abstemious prophet, during his state of solitary seclusion from the commerce of the world, should support himself by a repast which is to be numbered not amongst the luxuries of life, but merely regarded as a substitute for food of a more agreeable nature ? We may also adduce, in support of this idea, the testimony of HASSELQUIST, who thus expresses himself on this very subject. “ They who deny insects to have been the food of this holy man, urge, that this insect is an unaccustomary and unnatural food ; but they would soon be convinced of the contrary, if they would travel hither, to Egypt, Arabia, or Syria, and take a meal with the Arabs. Roasted locusts are at this time eaten by the Arabs at the proper season, when they can procure them ; so that in all probability this dish has been used in the time of ST. JOHN. Ancient customs are not here subject to many changes, and the victuals of JOHN are not believed unnatural here ; and I was assured by a judicious Greek priest, that their church had never taken the word in any other sense, than that of locusts ; and he even laughed at the idea of its being a plant or a bird.”

HASSELQUIST'S *Travels*, Eng. Translation, p. 419.